

Presentation.

ON the evening of Friday the 2nd inst., a deputation, consisting of Messrs. John McPherson and Alex. Cameron, waited on the Rev. William Stewart, and, in the name and on behalf of the congregation of McLellan's Mountain, presented him with a very handsome and costly Riding Sleigh, together with a Whip and Reins, as a token of their respect for him as their pastor. The Sleigh was built by Messrs. Colin and Mitchel Cameron, brothers, New Glasgow.—*Col Standard.*

OBITUARY.—On the 7th January, at Wallace River, in the County of Cumberland, Mr. JAMES FLEMING, in the 60th year of his age. He was driving home a heavy load of firewood when, by the slipping of his foot on the forward part of the sled, he was dragged under the runner and crushed with the weight of the load passing over his body. He expired almost instantaneously, nearly in sight of his own dwelling.

The deceased was a ruling Elder in the congregation of that place in connection with the Church of Scotland; and the sad death of this good man has left a painful blank in his family, in the Church, and in the community at large.—*Com. to Hx. Colonist.*

Notes of the Month.

THE papers by last mail announce the meeting of the Imperial Parliament. The speeches in the House of Commons on the Address referred principally to Fenianism. An amendment, moved by the O'Donoghue in favor of the redress of Irish grievances, was negatived by a very large majority. Fenianism causes considerable alarm in Ireland as appears from the transportation of troops into that country. Arrests continue to be made, and weapons are manufactured in secret. It is a significant fact that the Irish government has decided against trusting the militia this year. There are abatement of the cattle disease in eastern districts, but the general improvement in this respect is slight.

THE Reform Bill will not be tabled for some considerable time, if parliamentary gossip is to be believed. It is supposed that the mixed composition of the Cabinet will render it a difficult matter, Lord Russell being jealous of Mr Gladstone, and the old Whigs being too conservative for the lately admitted Radicals. Reform meetings have been held in the leading towns. The meeting at Glasgow was characterised by extreme radical views and feelings, and was but a poor index of the opinions of the thinking portion of the Glasgow public. There is admitted to be apathy among the working classes in the matter, and a dread among the influential men of making changes that might commit legislation to the hands of mere numbers.

THE last month has become memorable by fearful storms at sea and great destruction of life and property. The foundering of the steamship "London" forms one of the most appalling disasters on record. She went down with 220 on board, many of the passengers being persons of affluence and fame. G. V. Brooke, the distinguished tragedian, the Bishop of Sydney, Rev Mr Draper, an eminent Methodist clergyman, and Mr Kerr, a minister of the Church of Scotland, with his lady, were among the lost. Twenty-one of the crew and passengers escaped in the pinnace. The event has created deep emotion in the hearts of all who have read the terrible narrative.

OUR PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT has assembled with the usual forms. Mr Holmes moved the reply to the address in the Upper House, and happily alluded to the presence in the person of Sir W. F. Williams of the original of the picture which for some years had hung on the walls of the Hall in which they were met. By the failure of our delegates in obtaining a renewal or satisfactory revival of the Reciprocity Treaty, which expires on the 17th March, our public men will have to undertake the important business of taking measures to preserve our trade, which may in the first instance be diverted from its usual courses. The Speech officially states that contracts have been entered into for the construction of railroads from Truro to Amherst and from Windsor to Annapolis.

THE London Times makes Fenianism and the unpopularity of the Roman Catholic clergy by reason of their loyal opposition to it, the text for advocating a State provision for the Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland—a measure that would astonish the Roman Catholics as much as the Protestants. The statistics of Jesuitism lately published show how marvelously the head of the Apocalyptic seven-headed and ten-horned beast that was wounded to death, especially at the glorious reformation, is healing up. The Jesuits had 1532 (!) foreign missionaries in 1864, being 242 more than they had in 1863. No less than 276 of these are employed in North America.

BISHOP COLENSO, whose rationalistic views have offended the friends of the Gospel, and, whom the ecclesiastical authorities of the Church of England have been unable to expel from the Church, has been met with much opposition in assuming his former position in Natal. An attempt was made to keep him out of his cathedral church, but the attempt was a failure, the civil power carrying the day.

THE Duke of Argyll, in a long speech from the chair at a meeting of the National Bible Society of Scotland, in Glasgow, gave utterance to views not very acceptable to the unusually large body of F. C. and U. P. clergy and people, who were present. Starting from the universally admitted right of private judgment, he argued, first, that large unions were not desirable, because truth was compromised and religious liberty was endangered, while on the other hand, that truth and individual liberty were gainers by a number of religious bodies; secondly, that while there ought to be confessions of faith in churches, a certain latitude must be allowed those who subscribe them. To such views, approximating to those of Principal Tulloch, and Dr McLeod, Dr Cairns took exception. The Duke, however, adhered to his former statements.

A large meeting was held on the following evening in the same place, for the purpose of agitating the laity on the proposed union of the United Presbyterian, Free, and Reformed Presbyterian Churches. Dr Buchanan maintained the broad thesis that divisions in the Church had all originated in encroachments of the civil power. He complained of disunion weakening discipline and nullifying excommunication. His first proposition it would be difficult to prove, and the power of excommunication is one which evidently makes the public of Scotland very cold towards the proposed union. An established Church cannot oppress the people, for, so long as established, it is restrained by the laws of its constitution, and protected while it remains within their limits, but a large voluntary association can make and change its laws at pleasure, and may become oppressive and unjust.

THE SABBATH QUESTION continues to receive attention. Dr. McLeod's speech gave birth to